

Testimony
Submitted to the
Education Committee
March 9, 2009

SENATE BILL NO.830 AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING EDUCATION

Good afternoon Senator Gaffey, and Representative Fleishmann and Members of the Education Committee. My name is Martha Olang and I live in Hartford. I am 13 and I am a full day 8th grade student at the Greater Hartford Academy of Math and Science. I am here to testify about proposed Senate Bill 830 – Concerning the Governor's Recommendations Regarding Education

One of the reasons this school is so important to me is because the teachers trust us as students and as people to do what we think is right. Their belief in me is important to who I am today. This school is both a new experience and a good opportunity for those who are not used to having hands-on activities, different choices, and one-on-one time with teachers. Another benefit of the school is that students are non-judgmental towards each other. Because of this, students aren't as scared to share their answers, thoughts, and questions. I recall the time when I was in my old school and the teachers asked for an answer from a DRP passage and there wasn't anyone who dared to raise their hand and answer the question. This is because none of us were confident in ourselves to the point where we thought that we were always going to be wrong. Although we may not always be correct, the teachers at GHAMAS help us to understand what things we did right and what things need improvement. I feel that by being in this school my needs are met in many ways; being comfortable and confident in the classroom is one of the most important ones.

I think that magnet schools are important because in many schools there isn't the diverse population that the magnet schools offer. This type of school is important to our communities because it allows students from different towns to come together in a challenging learning environment. Usually many schools don't offer diversity, but having a school with a lot of different cultures makes everything much better because you don't just have one perspective, you can have many at once. Diversity is not the only advantage that magnet schools offer. Their advanced courses and small class size allow for more focused learning. Because of this, students will have more opportunities after high school. Those that attend magnet schools will be given more choices based on their level of learning. Thank you for listening. This has been an experience that I will never forget.